

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CROMPTON.

Annual Report

— OF THE —

Medical Officer of Health

for the Urban District of Crompton,
Lancashire, for the Year ending 31st,
— December, 1914. —

AREA OF DISTRICT	...	...	...	2,865 ACRES
POPULATION (CENSUS 1911)	...	...	...	14,750
BIRTH RATE	...	...	...	19'4
DEATH RATE	...	...	...	12'15
NETT DEATH RATE	...	...	...	15'16
PHTHISIS DEATH RATE	...	...	...	1'04
ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE	...	...	...	1'37
DEATH RATE OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR	127'9

MALCOLM HUTTON, M.A., B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.,

M.O.H., CROMPTON.

TOWN HALL, SHAW,
MARCH, 1915.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Urban Sanitary District of Crompton, Lancashire,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1914.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CROMPTON URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting to you my First Annual Report I should like to refer to the loss which the District sustained last year by the death of Dr. Brooke, your late Medical Officer of Health.

From long residence in the District, his position as Medical Officer under the Poor Law, and his intimate relationship with all classes of the community as a general practitioner, he had an unrivalled knowledge of the various conditions in Crompton ; and this, combined with an unfailing courtesy and tact made him through a long series of years a most valuable servant of the Council.

The outstanding features of the year were the prevalence of a severe type of Scarlet Fever, and a decrease in the Birth Rate, the Death Rate, and the Infantile Mortality Rate.

At the beginning of a new regime I have thought it advisable to give as full a statement as possible of all the branches of Public Health work in the area ; in so doing I shall cover ground which is already familiar to you all, but still it is necessary for the sake of completeness. Since taking office I have received much help from the various Officials of the Council and wish to express my indebtedness to them.

I am,

Crompton,

March, 1915.

Your obedient servant,

MALCOLM HUTTON,

A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The District of Crompton lies on the Western slopes of the Pennine Chain, and its height above sea level varies from 600 to over 1,100 feet. It has an area of 2,865 acres, about half of which is built upon, the other half being hilly or undulating moorland. As the prevailing winds are from S.W., and as there is no high land in that direction between Crompton and the Irish Sea the rainfall is considerable. Further, as the surrounding country towards the S.W. is entirely industrial, the prevailing winds are laden with smoke from factory and domestic sources.

The population at the Census of 1911 was 14,750, and the population estimated to the middle of 1914 was 15,300. The main occupation is cotton spinning, but in addition there is a little cotton weaving, and there is one coal mine at the N.E. boundary, giving occupation to about 200 people. On the whole the community is prosperous and during the crisis of 1914, there was not a great deal of distress although for the first three months of the war, *i.e.*, August, September and October, the great majority of the mills were working on short time. As indicating the economic state of the District during the last part of the year it may be stated that the number of civilian cases granted relief from the Prince of Wales' Fund up 7th November was 154, while from 7th November to 31st December the number was 18. The details relative to out-door relief paid in the year 1914 to persons resident in the Crompton Township are as follows :—

Average Weekly No. of Paupers	Average Weekly Amount of Relief	Average Weekly Rate per head
44	£5 1s. 9d.	2s. 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

There are no Hospitals in the District, but for general purposes the inhabitants make use of the Royal Infirmary, Oldham, which is situated about three miles away. During 1914 this Institution admitted from Crompton 102 in-patients, 47 being men and 55 being women and children. A voluntary Nursing Association exists in the District which provides two Nurses, who attend any non-infectious cases recommended by the medical men. During the year ending 31st March, 1914, these Nurses paid 4,958 visits, and assisted at 39 operations, a record which shows how useful is their sphere of activity.

B.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Water Supply.

Practically all Crompton is supplied with water from the Oldham Corporation Water Supply. A detailed description of this

is given in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Oldham, and need not be repeated here. A few farms and houses in the outlying districts are supplied from wells and springs. During the year, twelve houses at Grains Bar—the highest in the District—were connected with the Oldham Water Supply. This must be regarded as very satisfactory as the houses are all over 1,000 feet above sea level, the highest being 1114'5.

Rivers and Streams.

The head waters of the river Beal flow through the length of the District from S.W. to N.E. The river is liable to pollution to a certain extent from the factories in its proximity, but there is no serious contamination. It is liable to overflow its banks towards the north eastern end, and the ground in its vicinity all through its course is damp and rather ill-drained.

Drains and Sewers.

The whole District, with the exception of outlying farms, is now sewered. There are two Sewage Works, the larger being at Newhey, the smaller at Low Crompton. Both consist of sedimentation tanks and filter beds. A scheme is at present under consideration for the extension of the Low Crompton Works, and when this has been completed there will be capacity for dealing with the sewage of the District, at its present rate of increase, for the next thirty years.

Closet Accommodation.

The great majority of closets are still on the conservancy system, but Water Closets flushed with fresh water must be provided in all new property. During the year there were 5 conversions from Pail to Water Closets. The night-soil is at present removed to outlying farms where it is mixed with shoddy and used as manure. A tabular statement of the conditions at the end of the year follows :—

Statement as to Houses, &c., in the District and their Sanitary Accommodation.

					1913.		1914.
No. of Houses	...	...	...	...	3575	...	3588
„	Factories, Workshops, Lock-up						
	Shops, &c.	...	...	...	207	...	219
„	Houses without back doors	...	...	...	270	...	263
„	Houses back to back	...	...	...	140	...	134

					1913.		1914.
„	Pail Closets	...	...	...	2606	...	2598
„	Water Closets	...	...	...	631	...	706
„	Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	272	...	286
„	Cesspools	...	...	...	36	...	35
„	Covered Ashpits	...	...	...	114	...	106
„	Open Ashpits	...	...	...	23	...	23
„	Ashbins	...	...	...	2761	...	2810

Scavenging.

Movable ashbins with proper coverings are being substituted for fixed receptacles, and during the year 13 ashpits were abolished and 25 ashbins provided. All ashbins are emptied weekly. The contract has been placed for a Refuse Destructor which ought to be in use by the end of 1915. This will be a very great sanitary improvement, and it is being constructed in such a way that additional cells can be added as required so that all probable increase in the District is being provided for.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

No. of Investigations made in Notifiable Infectious Disease	395
„ Houses Inspected	840
„ Re-Inspections, &c.	254
„ Inspections as to Sanitary Conveniences at Factories	96
„ „ „ Workshops and Bakehouses	153
„ „ „ Dairies and Cowsheds	50
„ „ „ Slaughterhouses	127
„ „ „ Common Lodging Houses	6
„ Visits paid to Schools...	12
„ Smoke Observations	12
„ Miscellaneous Inspections	18
Total	1963

Particulars of Work done in Compliance with Notices.

Back Doors to Houses provided	...	...	...	...	...	7
Damp Houses rectified	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ventilation of Houses improved	...	...	...	...	...	65
House Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	25
Defective Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	63
Other Miscellaneous Improvements to Houses	...	...	...	...	...	36
Dirty Houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	11
Houses Overcrowded rectified	...	...	...	...	...	4
Defective Cellars repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
New Drains provided to Houses	...	...	...	...	...	144
Drains cleansed and repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	23
House Drains connected to Sewer	...	...	...	...	...	36
Trapped Slop-water and Surface-water Gullies provided	...	...	...	...	...	169
Lead Slop-pipes provided and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Lead Syphon Traps provided	...	...	...	...	...	11
Rain Pipes provided and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	10
Defective Eaves Guttering repaired (houses)	...	...	...	...	...	12
Cellar Drains provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Closets repaired (structural)	...	...	...	...	...	16
Water Closets repaired (fittings)	...	...	...	...	...	5
Water Closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pail Closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Closets cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	1
New Sanitary Pails provided...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Ashpits abolished	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	40
Yards repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Yards cleansed...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisance from Manure Pits	...	...	...	...	...	5
Accumulations of Refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Insanitary Pigstys rectified	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisance from Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cowsheds limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	8
Total						809
Preliminary Notices	...	...	...	...	...	192
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	...	15
Letters	...	...	...	...	...	15

There are no Offensive Trades nor Houses let in Lodgings in Crompton.

Schools.

There are eight Public Elementary Schools. All have a good water supply, but in three of them the closets are still of the pail variety. A conversion to water closets is urgently called for. One of the Schools was closed for a month in the spring by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Food—Milk.

The milk supply is derived almost entirely from farms situated within the area, and these are visited from time to time by the sanitary staff. There were no cases of Infectious Disease at any of the farms during the year, nor was it possible to trace any Infectious Disease to milk supply. At one of the farms a cow died of Anthrax, but no case occurred in a human subject, and the milk supply was apparently not affected.

Other Foods.

The Sanitary Inspector makes periodic inspection of the Market Ground, Slaughter Houses and Bakehouses, and takes action when necessary. During the year four carcasses were submitted to him for examination and parts of two of these were condemned. No seizure of food took place during the year.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

The farm premises in the District are as follows :—

Dairy Farms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Cowkeepers only	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Farm Buildings used for other purposes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Shopkeepers who retail Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Farmers from adjoining districts retailing Milk in Crompton...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

The premises within the District have been periodically inspected. Limewashing and cleansing have been attended to. One notice to limewash cowshed was required during the year.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 7 registered private Slaughter Houses in the District. The Sanitary Inspector, who is also a certified meat inspector, paid 127 visits to these places during the year.

Bakehouses.

There are 23 Bakehouses on the register. During the year the usual inspections were made, and no action was required to be taken in respect of any of them.

Housing.

During the year the systematic examination of the District, under the regulations of 1910, was continued, and on several occasions the Inspector was accompanied by the Medical Officer. In all, the houses inspected numbered 811. The details of the work done are shown in the tabular statement. The number of new houses completed was 20, and on 31st December, 1914, there were 46 houses in course of erection, the whole 66 being for the working classes. Houses are still difficult to obtain, and workers still come into Crompton daily in large numbers from surrounding districts. But it is questionable if this daily travelling would diminish much even if there were a large increase in the number of houses, as many of those who travel are younger members of families domiciled elsewhere who would not be likely to become householders themselves. On the whole the condition of the houses may be considered satisfactory. There are no congested areas, and even where the houses are poorest in quality the localities are open and wind swept, and any lack of ventilation must be regarded as due to the tenant more than the property.

In making the inspections consideration has been given to the points mentioned in the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, issued by the Local Government Board, viz. :—

Water supply, closet accommodation, drainage, conditions in regard to light, ventilation, dampness and cleanliness, condition of yards and outbuildings, arrangements for the deposit of refuse and ashes, etc.

When the construction allows, back to back houses are being made into through houses, and when possible houses without back doors are being provided with such doors ; unfortunately, however, there are a number of houses in this District to which there is no land at the back, and such cannot easily be provided with back doors. Where houses are found to be insufficiently ventilated, the owners are required to provide that at least one window in each room shall be made to open. Owners of premises are now executing any work required without undue pressure.

Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

Under the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, there were issued :

Preliminary Notices	...	...	...	...	...	45
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	811
Representations made to the Council with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	None
Closing Orders Made	...	...	...	...	...	None
Notices to Occupiers to vacate premises	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	None
Houses remedied without Closing Order	..	...	...	...	...	183
Houses made habitable after Closing Order...	...	...	...	...	...	13

The following are the details of premises which have been repaired or otherwise dealt with :—

Situation of Premises.	No. of Houses
1-7, Samuel Street, and 354, Rochdale Road...	5
170-174, Thornham Road	3
15-21, Greenfield Lane	4
2-3, West View	2
66, 70-78, Beal Lane, and 2-8, Beal Street	10
1-9, off Kershaw Street, and 9 and 11 Moorfield St...	8
23-27a, Fir Lane, 2-6, Back Square Street, and 5 and 9, Boundary Street	10
1-7, Fitton Yard, 2-8, Robert Street, and 77-83, Cowlshaw Lane	16
32-50, Manchester Road	10
1-9, Oldham Road...	5
2-12, Manchester Road, 1-7, Henthorn Street, and 1-3, Henthorn Yard	13
2-9, Cowlshaw	8
2-3, Oak Croft	2
3-9, Queen Street, and 13, 21, 41 and 47, High Street	8
12-18, Scowcroft Lane, 1-19, Moor Street, and 14, 16 and 26, Queen Street	16
3-9, Refuge Street, and 14-22, Ogden Terrace	9
Also at 67 houses where minor defects were remedied	67
Total	196

The following back to back houses have been made into through houses :—

2 and 3, West View ; 72, 74, 76, Beal Lane ; and 4, 6, and 8, Beal Street.

The following houses have been closed and demolished :—

66, Beal Lane ; 52 and 54, Market Street.

The following houses have been closed :—

58 and 60, Market Street.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are two Common Lodging Houses in the District, which provide accommodation for 71 men. These have been frequently visited and have been found in a clean condition. No notices have been required during the year.

Van Dwellers.

The Vans occupied by travelling showmen and others during “Wakes” week are on the market ground. W.C.s and ashbins are provided for their use. At other times during the year travelling hawkers encamp on private land as the market is not available for the purpose. The Vans are inspected and kept under observation. The Council have adopted bye-laws relating to them.

Factories and Workshops.

Factories.

There are 55 premises which come under this designation, viz.:—

Bakers...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Brickworks	...	...	...	...	...	1
Collieries	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills	...	...	...	...	...	31
Flock Willowing	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ironfounders	...	...	...	...	...	2
Joiners...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...	2

Machinists	...	...	...	...	...	3
Printers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rope Walks	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tinplate Workers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Quarries	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wheelwrights and Shoeing Forge	...	...	...	...	...	1

The Sanitary conveniences at the various places have been periodically inspected.

The following notices were required, viz.:—

Defective Closets	...	...	...	4
Defective ventilation of Closets	...	...	...	1

Workshops.

There are 53 premises coming under this designation, viz.:—

Brushmakers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cloggers	...	...	...	...	...	8
Cloggers and Shoemakers	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cycles and Motors	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dressmakers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Hosiers...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Joiners	...	...	...	...	...	3
Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	4
Milliners and Dressmakers	...	...	...	...	...	3
Saddlers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shoeing Forges	...	...	...	...	...	2
Shoemakers	...	...	...	...	...	8
Skipmakers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tailors...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Tinplate Workers	...	...	...	...	...	1
Underclothing...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Watchmakers and Jewellers...	...	...	...	...	...	2

The premises have been periodically inspected and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Smoke Observations.

There were 12 observations, each of half-hour duration, taken during the year, with the following results :—

No black smoke	7
Under 2 minutes black smoke ...	3
2 minutes and under 4 minutes ...	1
4 minutes and over	1

One firm exceeded the time limit ; being a first offence a legal notice was served upon them to abate the nuisance.

C.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

Under the Medical Officer of Health the main part of the Sanitary administration is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector who has for special purposes the assistance of certain members of the Council Staff. The Council forms part of the Joint Committee controlling the Smallpox Hospital at Cinder Hill, but fortunately that has not been in use during the year, although the Milnrow outbreak in June was in the next adjoining district to the North, and there have been cases in Oldham. Cases of other Infectious Diseases are sent to Westhulme Hospital which belongs to the Oldham Corporation. Though there has been a severe epidemic of Scarlet Fever in Oldham during the year, and more cases than ever have been sent from Crompton, there has been no deficiency of accommodation.

The following Acts have been adopted by the Council, and are in force in the District :—

- Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.
- Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.
- Baths and Wash-house Act, 1897.
- Notification of Births Act, 1907.
- Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Sections 81, 84, 85, 86, 90 and 91, Parts II., III. (except Clause 37), IV., V., VI., and Section 95 of Part X.

Arrangements have been made with the Public Health Laboratory in Manchester for the examination of products to help in the diagnosis of Diphtheria, Enteric Fever and Tuberculosis. Practitioners may also send swabs at the end of cases of Diphtheria

before certifying patients free from infection. The examinations made during the year were :—

	Positive	Negative	Doubtful	Total
Diphtheria	4	11	1	16
Typhoid Fever ... ..	...	2	...	2
Tuberculosis	5	8	...	13

D.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

The figures given in the 75th Annual Report of the Registrar General (Table XLVI) show that County Boroughs, Urban Districts, and Rural Districts in the northern part of England showed a higher fatality rate from Scarlet Fever than corresponding areas in the Midlands, South of England, and Wales. During 1914, the disease in this severe form was prevalent in Crompton. There were 92 cases of Scarlet Fever and 10 deaths, the percentage of deaths to cases being, therefore, 10·8. This is much the most serious epidemic of recent years with regard to severity. For previous years the records are :—

CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM SCARLET FEVER IN CROMPTON, 1905-1914.

Year	Cases	Deaths
1905 ...	41 ...	1
1906 ...	132 ...	6
1907 ...	67 ...	5
1908 ...	93 ...	6
1909 ...	101 ...	0
1910 ...	17 ...	0
1911 ...	25 ...	0
1912 ...	92 ...	0
1913 ...	35 ...	0
1914 ...	92 ...	10

Further evidence of the severity of the epidemic is shown by the fact that the average residence in Hospital of the cases which recovered was 50·1 days. Among those who recovered, Otitis Media, Suppurative Adenitis, and Albuminuria were known to have occurred, though it is impossible to give the exact figures of those conditions. Of the 92 cases, 52 were sent to Hospital, a percentage of 56·5. Of the 10 deaths, 2 occurred at home and 8 in Hospital. The cases occurred as follows with regard to time :—

February	...	...	8	July	...	...	...	4
March	...	...	10	August	...	...	...	1
April	...	...	20	November	...	...	...	6
May...	...	...	20	December	...	...	...	16
June	...	...	7					.

From this it appears that there were in reality two epidemics, the first from February to August, and the second in November and December.

The distribution with regard to space is of interest. An imaginary line drawn from the Market by the side of the Town Hall, along Queen Street, separates the District into two parts, the smaller of which, comprising High Street, Oldham Road, Manchester Road, and their branches, contains roughly 3,000 people ; while the larger, constituting the remainder of Shaw Parish, and the Parishes of East Crompton and High Crompton contains about 12,000. In the spring and summer epidemic the smaller district with a third of the population had 32 cases, while the rest had 38. In the epidemic at the end of the year the cases were fairly equally distributed in proportion to the population, the smaller districts having 7 cases, and the larger 15.

Upon receipt of notification of a case of Scarlet Fever, the Sanitary Inspector immediately visits the house and the patient is removed to Hospital if the Medical Attendant states that removal is desirable ; and even if the Medical Attendant does not advise it the Sanitary Inspector, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, may carry it out if the home circumstances do not seem satisfactory. Enquiries are made as to the number of occupants, the school attended by children, the food and milk supply, and any possible source of infection. The property is examined for sanitary defects, and any found are rectified. Verbal instructions are given and printed instructions are left as to the conduct of the person nursing the patient and of other occupants of the house during the course of the disease. Notice is sent to the School Authorities advising them of the occurrence of the disease, and warning them

against the admission of pupils from infected houses. Disinfectants—Carbolic Soap, Izal and Eucalyptus Oil—are supplied to the patients, and on receipt of notice by the practitioner that danger of infection is over, the room which has been occupied by the patient is disinfected with formalin, and clothing and bedding is treated in the steam disinfecter. Notices are issued to schools stating a date before which children should not be re-admitted after an attack.

The causes of the prevalence of Scarlet Fever in a district such as Crompton are : (1) The occurrence of mild cases which are not recognised by parents, and which are allowed to associate with other children. (2) Cases which are removed from isolation before infectivity is over. There was one marked case of this during the year. A child from Moss gate was discharged from Hospital, and within a week three other cases were notified from the same or immediately adjoining houses. Those and the infecting child were immediately sent to Hospital and no more cases occurred in the locality. (3) The amount of intercourse which inevitably takes place with large neighbouring towns. (4) The presence of general sanitary and structural defects.

Diphtheria.

15 Cases were notified during the year of which the particulars follow. No special conditions were found in any of the cases which would account for their occurrence. Of the cases 3 were fatal.

No.	Date			Age	Residence
1	Jan.	7	...	4 years	10a, Kenworthy Street
2	Feb.	13	...	9 "	1, Rushcroft Road
3	Mar.	29	...	1 "	61, Smallbrook
4	April	4	...	15 "	61, Smallbrook
5	"	8	...	9 "	85, Milnrow Road
6	"	8	...	10 "	162, Rochdale Road
7	"	11	...	16 "	214, George Street
8	"	12	...	2 "	39, Beech Street
9	"	22	...	3 "	151, Grains Road
10	May	16	...	5 "	Railway Hotel
11	July	2	...	6 "	37, Grains Road
12	Sept.	1	...	5 "	6, Park Street
13	"	7	...	6 $\frac{2}{3}$ "	5a, Duckworth Street
14	"	27	...	4 "	35, Copley Street
15	Dec.	15	...	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	30, Christine Street

Other Infectious Diseases.

There was no serious outbreak of any of the other notifiable Infectious Diseases or, so far as is known, of the non-notifiable. There is now a better chance than formerly of obtaining early information as to these latter, as a weekly return is obtained from each school as to the numbers absent and the cause of absence, if known. Enquiries are made by the Sanitary Staff in every case which seems in any way suspicious.

Summary of Cases notified throughout the Year 1914.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	92
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	15
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	16
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	3

PARTICULARS OF WORK DONE IN CONNECTION WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Visits made to Infected Houses...	...	395
Houses fumigated by Sanitary Staff after		
Notifiable Disease	...	114
Schools fumigated on account of Scarlet		
Fever	...	1
Notices to Schools <i>re</i> Infectious Cases...		74
Number of Bacteriological Investigations		31

Upon Inspection of the premises in cases of Scarlet Fever defects were found at 8 of them. Notices have been served and the defects remedied or are in hand. Shaw National School was closed during May for one month on account of the prevalence of Scarlet Fever amongst the scholars.

CASES REMOVED TO WESTHULME ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	52
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	6
					—
Total	...				58

Zymotic Death Rate.

The seven principal Zymotic Diseases caused 21 deaths, viz:—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	3
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	7
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	10

This will give a Zymotic Death rate of 1·37 per 1,000 of the population.

E.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

The cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year were

Pulmonary	...	...	28
Other forms	...	...	10

and the deaths from Tuberculosis were

Pulmonary	...	...	16
Other forms	...	...	3

Primary visits were paid to all cases notified and subsequent visits and disinfection were carried out in the event of death or removal of the patient to a Sanatorium. Six cases were treated in Sanatoria by the Lancashire Insurance Committee.

A Nurse for Tuberculosis has now been appointed by the Lancashire County Council who will visit the cases notified in this Area by arrangement with the Medical Officer of Health. She will report to him any structural or sanitary defects in property or conditions generally which require attention.

A Tuberculosis Dispensary for this Area is now open where cases are examined and classified by the Tuberculosis Officer. He is also prepared to see cases which are recommended by practitioners even though they occur in non-insured persons.

In a district like Crompton the problem of after care is not easy of solution as occupation in Cotton Factories is not by any means desirable in Tuberculous cases and there are very few other occupations to choose from.

F.—INVESTIGATION OF OTHER DISEASES.

Apart from the infectious diseases the commonest conditions in the district are rheumatic and bronchial and pulmonary affections, due in great measure to the occupation of the majority of the population and the raw damp climate. During the year among infants under 1 year there were more than twice as many deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia as from Diarrhœa and Enteritis; and Bronchitis was the commonest cause of death amongst those over 65.

G.—MEANS FOR PREVENTING MORTALITY IN CHILDBIRTH AND IN INFANCY.

Work under the Notification of Births Act, 1907, is carried out by a part-time Assistant Sanitary Inspector. Her activities at present are confined to the visiting of children under 1 year and as a rule she pays three visits during the year, but in cases in which she thinks special supervision necessary or when asked by parents she visits more frequently. The work which she has done is as follows :—

First visits	...	...	...	310
Second „	...	...	...	290
Third „	...	...	...	272
Total visits paid	...	...	...	872

At first visits 219 children were breast-fed

9 children were breast and bottle-fed

54 children were bottle-fed.

Physical Condition of Children Born.

Healthy	...	...	...	227
Small	...	...	...	38
Delicate	...	...	...	19
Premature	...	...	...	6
Still-born...	...	...	...	20
Removed out of district before being visited	...	...	...	2
Total Births notified	...	...	...	312

Of those breast-fed, there were weaned

Under 1 month	...	...	...	70
2 months...	...	...	...	10
3 „	...	...	...	17
4 „	...	...	...	5
5 „	...	...	...	4
6 „	...	...	...	12

7	„	...	...	...	3
8	„	...	...	...	3
9	„	...	...	...	6
10	„	...	...	...	8
11	„	...	...	...	6
12	„	...	...	...	61

On the whole the Visitor finds that the mothers are pleased to get advice and in most instances they make serious attempts to follow it. On one occasion however she found a child twelve days old being fed on bread and milk, and in another instance she reported a midwife for having advised the mother to give up nursing her child even though the supply of milk was good. Bottles with tubes are still in use, but she is of opinion that they become less common from year to year. Since May last she has taken particulars of the number of children "nursed out," and she finds that they are few; in each instance the nursing has been satisfactorily done. So far as Crompton is concerned she has no hesitation in stating that the nursing out of children does not militate against infant welfare.

The statistics of Infantile Mortality show that the total number of deaths of children under 1 year was 38. The death-rate per 1,000 born is :—

		Year		Death Rate
England and Wales	...	1914	...	105
Crompton ...	...	1914	...	127'9

Reference to Table A shows that the rate has steadily decreased since 1910.

In larger towns considerable information is to be obtained by a comparison of the death-rate in various areas of the town, *e.g.*, in Oldham in 1913 the rate in Werneth Ward was 78 and in Mumps Ward 191. In Crompton, as the dwellings in all the Wards are of the same type, no useful purpose would be served by a classification after this nature, but a comparison of the average rental of the dwelling houses in the district as a whole with the average rental of the houses in which infants have died during the year gives an interesting result. The average rental of dwelling houses in the district as a whole is well over 5/- per week, whereas the average rental of those houses in which infants have died works out at a fraction over 3/7 per week.

H.—VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

	Annual Rate per 1,000 Living		Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births
	Births	Deaths	
England and Wales, 1914 ...	23·6	13·9	105
Crompton, 1914	19·4	15·16	127·9

The Death-rate is, as will be seen, rather higher than that for England and Wales, but in view of the fact that the great majority of the population, male and female, over twelve years of age is occupied in the cotton mills, and that the climate is not particularly favourable it cannot be regarded as very unsatisfactory.

But from no point of view can the Birth-rate be satisfactorily regarded. It is not only low relatively to this country as a whole, but low relatively to Crompton in previous years. A statement recently published by the Medical Officer of Health for Glasgow shows that when that city was the size which Crompton now is it had an annual birth-rate of about 35 per 1,000. To what extent the purposeful avoidance of fertility affects the low birth-rate is a problem on which it is impossible to dogmatise; but it must be regarded as a factor. Further, the low birth-rate must be considered in conjunction with the high infantile death-rate and the notification of twenty still-births during the year. One other point worthy of notice is that 52·6 per cent. of the deaths under one year took place during the first month and may therefore be attributed to antenatal causes. An examination of these various aspects of the problem seems to indicate that an improvement of these unfavourable conditions can only be found along the lines of education to a higher sense of moral responsibility and to greater care of maternal health during the course of pregnancy.

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1914 AND
PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Births			Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Uncorrected Number	Nett				Of Non-residents registered in the District	Of Residents not registered in the District				
			Number	Rate	Number	Rate			Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	15000	...	303	20	190	12·7	...	28	34	112·2	218	14·5
1910	15000	...	322	21·7	192	12·8	...	32	47	145·9	224	14·9
1911	14750	...	336	22·7	203	13·7	...	32	48	142·8	235	16
1912	14750	325	327	22·1	200	13·5	1	40	48	146·7	239	16·2
1913	15000	351	352	23·5	217	14·5	...	37	48	136·3	254	16·9
1914	15300	295	297	19·4	186	12·15	...	46	38	127·9	232	15·16

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 2,865.

Total population at all ages (census 1911), 14,750.

TABLE II.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.									Total cases re- moved to Hospital
	At all ages	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up'rds		
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	15	...	6	8	1	...	...	...	6
Erysipelas	16	...	...	...	...	2	14	...	...
Scarlet Fever	92	2	20	57	10	3	...	...	52
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuber- culosis	28	...	...	2	7	12	7	...	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis	10	1	1	3	2	2	1	...	...
Totals	165	6	27	70	20	20	22	...	64	

ISOLATION HOSPITAL—Westhulme Isolation Hospital, Oldham Corporation.

SANATORIA—The various Sanatoria under the Lancashire Insurance Committee.

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING YEAR 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.								
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 y'rs	2 and under 5 y'rs	5 and under 15 y'rs	15 and under 25 y'rs	25 and under 45 y'rs	45 and under 65 y'rs	65 and upwards
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All causes { Certified ...	232	38	9	9	10	15	33	52	66
Uncertified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	10	...	2	5	2	1	...	...	...
Whooping Cough...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup...	3	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Influenza ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis) ...	16	...	...	...	1	6	6	3	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease ...	14	...	...	...	...	...	2	6	6
Rheumatic Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis ...	3	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	31	2	...	...	1	1	6	12	9
Bronchitis ...	27	4	...	...	...	...	...	8	15
Pneumonia (all forms)...	24	8	3	...	1	3	2	5	2
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	7	4	2	...	1	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis & Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Alcoholism ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	12	...	...	...	1	...	2	5	4
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition...	3	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide...	9	1	...	2	...	2	1	2	1
Suicide ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	37	6	...	2	...	...	5	9	15
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...	15	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	13
TOTALS ...	232	38	9	9	10	15	33	52	66

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1914.

NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER
ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSES OF DEATH.					Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
ALL CAUSES—														
Certified					4	4	4	8	20	4	3	4	7	38
Uncertified ... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox ... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox ... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..					...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria and Croup ... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Erysipelas ... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis ... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Convulsions ... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Laryngitis ... ..					...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis ... ..					...	2	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	4
Pneumonia (all forms)... ..					...	1	...	...	1	2	2	1	2	8
Diarrhœa ... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis... ..					...	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	1	4
Gastritis... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Syphilis ... ..					...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Rickets ... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying ... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth ... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis ... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations ... ..					...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth ... ..					...	2	1	2	5	...	...	...	...	5
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus ... ..					...	1	...	1	3	5	...	1	1	7
Other Causes ... ..					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Totals					4	4	4	8	20	4	3	4	7	38

Nett Births in the year—legitimate, 283 ; illegitimate, 14.

Nett Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 35 ; illegitimate infants, 3.

